



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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July 23, 2014

To: Mecklenburg County Health Care Providers
From: Anita Valiani, MPH, North Carolina Influenza Surveillance Coordinator
Re: **Invitation to Participate in the Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network**

The North Carolina Division of Public Health and the Mecklenburg County Health Department are working to recruit new providers to participate in the Influenza-Like Illness Network (ILINet).

As a participant in the ILINet program, your office will be asked report the following information to CDC each week:

- Total number of patient visits
- Number of patient visits for ILI by age group

ILINet provides valuable data to providers and to federal, state, and local public health personnel. Influenza-like illness reporting allows us to monitor when flu activity is starting and ending across North Carolina.

As a participant in ILINet, you will also have access to the State Laboratory of Public Health for submitting samples for influenza virus isolation and characterization. ILINet is the state's primary resource for influenza testing to identify the type of influenza viral strains circulating throughout the state. Laboratory submissions from North Carolina's ILINet Program have allowed us to identify new mutations, antiviral resistance, and could detect new strains with pandemic potential.

At the beginning of each season, ILINet participants will receive instructions for reporting information to CDC, submitting laboratory specimens to the State Laboratory of Public Health, and accessing current information about influenza activity throughout the U.S. on the secure CDC website. Participants will also receive weekly influenza updates from the Division of Public Health.

Additional information about ILINet is available at www.flu.nc.gov and at www.cdc.gov/flu. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Anita Valiani at anita.valiani@dhhs.nc.gov or (919) 715-2670.

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov

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